

America will be there—brighter, better, stronger than ever before.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:35 p.m. in the Music Hall at the Tucson Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to senior citizen Esther Don Tang, who introduced the President; Mayor George Miller and his wife, Roslyn; Verma Pastor, wife of Representative Ed Pastor; and entertainers Linda Ronstadt and CeCe Peniston.

**Radio Remarks on the Kennedy-Murray Amendment to Proposed Education Flexibility Partnership Legislation**

*February 25, 1999*

This year, we have a remarkable opportunity to work together across party lines to bring true progress to America's public schools. I welcome the idea of greater flexibility for States and school districts, and I urge the Senate to pass the so-called Ed-flex legislation, because it provides for greater flexibility and greater accountability. But we must do more to give our children a world-class education. That's why I also strongly support the amendment to the legislation proposed by Senators Kennedy and Murray to continue the national commitment we began last year: to hire 100,000 new teachers and to reduce class size all across America. Studies confirm what every parent already knows: smaller classes make a big difference, from improved test scores to improved discipline. The Senate should pass the Kennedy-Murray amendment and give our Nation's children the individual attention they deserve in the classroom and the better future only a good education can bring.

NOTE: The President's remarks were recorded at approximately 2 p.m. in the Tucson Convention Center in Tucson, AZ, for later broadcast. The proposed education flexibility partnership legislation is S. 280. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

**Statement on the Death of Virginia Foster Durr**

*February 25, 1999*

Hillary and I are deeply saddened to hear of the death of Virginia Foster Durr. Throughout this century, America's long march toward freedom and justice has been the achievement of countless Americans—black and white—who risked their lives to lead us closer to our most cherished ideals. A white woman born to privilege in the Deep South, Mrs. Durr refused to turn a blind eye to racism and intolerance in our society. Her courage, outspokenness, and steely conviction in the earliest days of the civil rights movement helped change this Nation forever. Hillary and I feel honored to have known and been inspired by this truly great American. Our thoughts and prayers are with her friends and family.

**Proclamation 7168—American Red Cross Month, 1999**

*February 25, 1999*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

For almost 120 years, the American Red Cross has served as a beacon of hope to those in need. Reaching out to victims of disaster, generations of Red Cross volunteers have provided shelter, food, and other essential services to relieve the suffering of families and communities and help people begin the process of rebuilding their lives. Today more than a million dedicated men and women volunteer under the banner of the American Red Cross, upholding this extraordinary tradition of service and assisting people across our Nation and around the world to prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.

The strength and scope of the natural disasters that occurred during 1998 made this past year among the most devastating in recent history. Floods, tornadoes, winter storms, and wildfires ravaged communities across the Nation. Hurricanes Georges and Mitch caused record destruction in the Gulf